



# Wildlands Update for *July*

**Southcentral General Recreation Note**  
Summer is here in Southcentral Alaska with the long days of sunlight and the swarms of mosquitoes! The bears are out!! Please use caution and be bear aware! Road construction and fires may cause some delays, plan ahead. Have a safe and fun summer!

## Updates

The Kenai River Trail Fire is still burning. A temporary flight restriction, river, and road (Skilak Loop) closure is in effect from Jim's Landing to Hidden Lake Campground until 6:00pm on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Fire maps are available on the web at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov>

The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail is closed at Elderberry Park at the west end of 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Detours are being re-routed to Westchester Lagoon. Signs and maps are posted at the closure area showing the way to Westchester Lagoon from the park. Work is scheduled to be completed by Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Roads Information

The Denali Highway is open. The Denali Park Road is open to private vehicles to mile 15, and the shuttle buses are traveling to mile 85, Wonder Lake. Palmer Fishhook Road in Hatcher Pass is open including Summit Road, which leads over the top of the pass to Willow. There are fires and road work throughout the state, so plan ahead and use caution. Delays can take an extra hour or so and some roads have been closed periodically because of wildfire danger. For more information go to the website <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/> and click on 555.alaska.gov.

## Alaska State Parks

All state parks are open. Chena River SRA trails (Upper and Lower Dome Trail and Angel Rocks Trail) are closed due to fire danger. Annual day use parking decals may be purchased for \$40.00. A pass for a second vehicle in the same household may be purchased for an additional \$20.00. The day use fee without a permit is \$5 per day. Day use fees are being collected at more sites this year and camping and cabin fees have increased in many locations. Please check the web site at

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/> for a list of changes. You can now make reservations for cabins and huts on-line. Call the Public Information Center at (907) 269-8400/Fairbanks (907) 451-2705 or go to the website [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org) for more information.

## Chugach State Park

All trails are open. Some trails are a little muddy on the hillside. Powerline Pass still has snow. There have been various bear sightings around Eagle River and McHugh Creek Picnic Area. Practicing bear safety will help ensure incident-free travels. Eklutna Lakeside Trail is clear and mostly dry. Some vandalism has occurred at trailheads. Remember to lock your vehicles, and leave valuables at home. For further information, call 269-8400 and press "1" for a current recorded update or call Chugach Headquarters at 345-5014 Monday through Friday.

## Mat-Su Area State Parks

The road to Independence Mine is open as is Summit Road in Hatcher Pass. The visitor center at Independence Mine State Historical Park is open from 10am

to 7pm daily. Guided tours take place at 1pm and 3pm on weekdays with an additional tour being offered at 4:30pm on weekends and holidays. The gate to the area will be closed from 9pm to 10am daily to prevent vandalism. Archangel Road at mile 14.5 on the Hatcher Pass road is open to motor vehicles. The Gold Mint Trailhead and parking lot at mile 14 on Hatcher Pass Road are closed to vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians due to construction; it will re-open in mid August. Call 745-2827

## Detailed Information for Alaska's State Parks

For more information about AK State Parks, call (907) 269-8400; press 1 for Chugach, press 3 for other state park areas. Call (907) 745-3975 for Mat-Su State Park info or (907) 495-6273 for Nancy Lake Ranger Station. State Parks current events can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

## Chugach National Forest

All Chugach National Forest campgrounds are open. Outhouses are

## Some good websites

Alaska outdoor information:  
<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>  
Alaska weather information:  
<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>  
Aurora and other phenomenon:  
<http://www.gi.alaska.edu/>  
Sunrise-Sunset:  
<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>  
Road Conditions:  
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

available at the Begich - Boggs Visitor Center and Moose Flats year round. The Trail River Campground will be under construction until further notice, but the Sprucewoods and River Terrace loops will remain open to camping on a first-come, first-served basis. The group site will remain available for reservations through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 1-877-444-6777. Any remaining areas will be closed to public use. Russian River and Primrose Campgrounds also have several construction projects throughout the summer. Lost Lake and Primrose Trails have patches of snow and mud above treeline. USFS crews are working on Devils Creek Trail above mile 5 and at the north end of Resurrection Pass Trail above East Creek for most of the summer. Some bridges are washed out, but still passable.

For further information contact the Seward Ranger District. Begich-Boggs Visitor Center is open daily 9-6:00pm. For more info call the Chugach National Forest (907) 743-9500, the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242, or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374. For internet updates go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>

#### Denali National Park

All campgrounds and trails are open for the season. Open fires have been banned, even in fire rings at developed sites, due to high fire danger. Teklanika River Campground is closed to tents until further notice, but is open to hard-side campers. Igloo Creek Campground is closed until further notice. Denali Visitor Center is open 7am - 8:00pm. Eielson Visitor Center is open 9am - 7:00 pm daily. Bears and wolves have been seen around the Toklat Road Camp and Cathedral Mountain Sable Pass areas. Please use caution! The Park Road is open to private vehicles to Savage River (Mile 15); buses only are allowed beyond that point. Reservations for buses and campgrounds can be made at 1-800-622-7275 or online at <http://www.reservedenali.com> Applications are now being accepted for the Denali Road Lottery. A \$10.00 non - refundable fee is

required to apply and a \$35.00 fee is required on the day of travel. The deadline for applications is July 31. Call 683-2294 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena> for further information.

#### Kenai Fjords National Park



National Park Service filmmakers visit Alaska Public Lands

Exit Glacier and all trails are open for the summer. The Seward Visitor Center and Exit Glacier Nature Center are open daily 9-6:00pm. All boats are up and running for tours of Resurrection Bay. Be cautious: bears have been spotted at Exit Glacier and on Mt. Marathon. Contact the park at (907) 224-2125 for more details, visit the website: <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge The Visitor Center is open 8-4:30 pm Monday - Friday and 9-6 pm Saturday - Sunday. The Visitor Contact Station on mile 58 of the Sterling Hwy is open 10-6 pm Friday and Saturday and 10-4 pm Sunday - Thursday. All campgrounds are open. There are many trails along Skilak Loop Road that are great for viewing wildlife. Call (907) 262-7021 for more information.

Public Use Cabins are a great retreat. There are hundreds of cabins throughout Alaska managed by various agencies. Cabins can be reserved up to six months in advance. Check out our cabin page at <http://www.nps.gov/aplic> Please use "pack it in, pack it out" practices if you intend to camp or use cabins.

#### VISITOR CENTERS

Eagle River Nature Center ERNC, located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road, is open Sunday-Thursday 10am-5pm (7pm on Fridays and Saturdays). There is a \$5.00 parking fee at the Center which is not covered by the State Day Use Pass. All trails are open for hiking; there are guided hikes at 10:30 and 2:30 daily with special programs on the weekends. Please watch out for flooded areas along the Crow Pass Trail. There's a new Beaver Viewing Deck, which allows people to see a beavers lodge and dam. Call (907) 694-2108 for more information or visit <http://www.ernc.org>.

Begich Boggs Visitor Center near Portage Glacier is open seven days a week from 9am-6pm. Interpretive programs and guided hikes featuring the historical and natural wonders of the valley

are available. All campgrounds are open, except Blackbear Campground which is closed until further notice. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information or visit the website at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach\\_pages/bbvc.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html)

Campbell Creek Science Center Midsummer Night Science programs, a series of family-friendly workshops, are in full swing for the summer. They run from 7pm-9pm and are usually held every other Wednesday. <http://www.anchorage.ak.blm.gov>

#### Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

Downtown Anchorage location is open 9-5:00pm daily. Stop by and enjoy the interpretive walks and special programs or view the exhibits and movies. Call (907) 271-2737 for more information Downtown Fairbanks location is open daily 9-6pm. Call (907) 456-0527 for more information.

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center located in Ketchikan is open Mon-Sat 8-5:00pm and Sunday from 8-4pm. Call (907) 228-6220 for more information.

The Tok Center location is open daily 8-7pm. Call (907) 883-5667 for more information.

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